

On March 4, 2016, EPA was notified by phone and email by the Potentially Responsible Parties that a visual inspection of the cap at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site completed on February 24, 2016, revealed areas where geotextile fabric was exposed. The EPA was not notified about the inspection results earlier because the Potentially Responsible Parties' Project Coordinator was on vacation and not available to report to EPA that the inspection was done until later. This unscheduled inspection took advantage of the recent abnormally low tides caused by heavy north winds, which exposed a majority of the cap for visual inspection. Five small (approximately 1 foot by 3 foot at the largest) areas were observed with exposed geotextile. It appears that no waste material was exposed, but this will be confirmed during the assessment and repair.

On March 4, 2016, the EPA directed the PRPs to place additional rock over these areas and approved a plan to conduct this work under EPA oversight. The PRPs are scheduled to conduct the assessment and repair beginning on March 9, 2016, with completion on March 11, 2016, weather and tide permitting.

A full cap inspection will be conducted by EPA's Dive Team in early April 2016, weather permitting. The exact date is being developed now in coordination with the EPA Dive Team. Following the inspection, sample devices will be placed in the cap at 14 locations by the EPA divers to confirm that no wastes are moving through the cap. A community meeting is being planned for late May 2016, to update the community on site activities and present the findings from the Corps of Engineers on potential final remedies for the site as well as additional inspection methodologies.



There were 5 locations with exposed geotextile in the Eastern Cell. Approximate locations are marked. They are all roughly 1 to 3 feet in either direction.



Geotextile at Location 3. Arrow is pointing to an overlapped edge of geotextile (view southeast).





Geotextile at Locations 4 and 5 (view south).